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Message Text

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66
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-11 /087 W
---------- 032961
R 161530Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1007
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASS BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE/CJ2
EUDAC VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSANVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
COMNAVINTCOM ALEXANDRIA VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
CNO WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR EG UR
SUBJECT: REACTION TO ABROGATION SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TREATY

SUMMARY: MEDIA ARE DOMINATED BY NEWS OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
AGREEMENT TO SADAT'S PROPOSED ABROGATION OF 1971 SOVIET-EGYPTIAN
FRIENDSHIP TREATY. NOTABLE OMISSION IS LACK OF REPORTING
ON TASS DECLARATION THAT SADAT'S ABROGATION REPRESENTS
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UNFRIENDLY ACTION. ONLY SURPRISE WAS FAHMY'S STATEMENT

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TO ASSEMBLY THAT "NON-ALIGNED EASTERN COUNTRIES" ARE
REPAIRING EGYPT'S PLANES. NO MENTION OF SOVIET NAVAL
FACILITIES IN ALEXANDRIA EGYPTIAN MAN ON STREET SEEMS PLEASED
BY ANTI-SOVIET GESTURE, BUT SOME SOPHISTICATES
ARE ASKING WHAT EGYPT WILL GAIN AND WORRYING ABOUT SOVIET REACTION.
END SUMMARY.

1. MEDIA MARCH 16 ARE DOMINATED BY NEWS OF
ABROGATION 1971 SOVIET-EGYPTIAN TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND
COOPERATION. NOTABLE OMISSION IS ANY REPORTING
OF TASS DECLARATION THAT SADAT'S ACTION IS "NEW DEMONSTRATION
OF UNFRIENDLY POLICY PURSUED FOR A LONG TIME BY EGYPTIAN
PRESIDENT." PAPERS INSTEAD REPORT BREZHNEV
HAD ANNOUNCED USSR WANTS TO STRENGTHEN ITS RELATIONS WITH
EGYPT DESPITE FACT THAT "CERTAIN FORCES ARE PERSISTENTLY
TRYING TO UNDERMINE IT."

3. PAPERS REPORT ASSEMBLY VOTE EVENING MARCH 15 IN FAVOR
OF ABROGATION, WITH ONLY TWO DISSENTS, AHMAD TAHA AND
ABU SAIF YUSUF, IDENTIFIED AS EX-COMMUNISTS. THIRD ASSEMBLY
MEMBER, DEMERDASH AL-TUNI, VOTED AFFIRMATIVELY, BUT "WITH
RESERVATIONS."

4. FONMIN FAHMY PRESENTED MEMORANDUM TO ASSEMBLY
WHICH SPECIFIED GOE DECISION WAS GENERATED BY SOVIET VIO-
LATION OF ARTICLE I (NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS)
PARTICULARLY BREZHNEV'S ALLUSIONS AT CP CONGRESS TO ALLEGED
GOE EFFORTS AIMED AT DISSIPATING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL
ACHIEVEMENTS OF EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION. FAHMY ALSO
CITED "RECENT MESSAGES" WHICH CONSTITUTE FURTHER INTERFERENCE.
HIS MEMORANDUM CLAIMED ARTICLE 2 (SAFEGUARDING
AND DEVELOPING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GAINS) HAD BEEN VIOLATED.
FAHMY, IN WHAT SEEMS CONSIDERABLE STRETCHING EXERCISE
CLAIMED ARTICLE 2 MEANS MOSCOW PROMISED FURNISH EGYPT
MILITARY MEANS TO ELIMINATE TRACES 1967 ISRAELI AGGRESSION.
SUCH ARMS, MEMORANDUM CONTINUES, HAVE NOT BEEN FURNISHED
SINCE LAST WEEK OCTOBER 1973.

5. BOTH FAHMY AND SPEAKER MAR'I STRESSED EGYPTIAN
INDEPDNENCE AND NATIONAL PRIDE, BUT AT SAME TIME THERE IS
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HINT OF WHAT MIGHT BE EFFORT TO BLUNT CUTTING EDGE OF
SADAT'S DECISION. BOTH STRESSED ABROGATION MUST NOT
INFLUENCE EGYPTIAN POLICY, "FOUNDED ON COOPERATION WITH
USSR AND OTHERS DESIROUS OF PEACE," TO PURSUE JUST AND
DURABLE PEACE IN ME. FAHMY EXPLAINED EGYPT HAS NOT
SEVERED CONTACT WITH SOVIET UNION, NOTING 15 MINISTERS HAD
VISITED MOSCOW AT SOVIET REQUEST AND SEVERAL AGREEMENTS HAVE
BEEN REACHED. TERMINATION OF TREATY WOULD NOT AFFECT

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TRADE RELATIONS SINCE MOSCOW IS IMPORTING EGYPTIAN GOODS
WORTH 80 TO 120 MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR "AS PART OF
EGYPT'S DEBTS." MAR'I EXPRESSED HOPE BILATERAL RELATIONS
WILL CONTINUE AND GROW ON BASIS FRIENDSHIP. BOTH
MAR'I AND FAHMY, HOWEVER, EMPHASIZED THAT TREATY HAD
BECOME MERE PIECE OF PAPER SINCE ESSENCE OF ITS RAISON D'ETRE
HAD BEEN LOST, I.E., ECONOMIC AND MILITARY COOPERATION.

6. GUMHURIYYA REPORTS FAHMY TOLD ASEMBLY THAT EGYPT
HAS UNDER WAY REPAIRS AND YEARLY OVERHAULS OF ITS PLANES
IN "OTHER COUNTRIES AND IN NONALIGNED EASTERN COUNTRIES"
(YUGOSLAVIA?) AND THAT THESE STATES DESERVE THANKS AND
APPRECIATION.

7. THERE IS NO MENTION IN MARCH 15 PAPERS OF ANY ANTICIPATED
GOE ACTION AGAINST SOVIET FACILITIES IN ALEXANDRIA.

8. SOME SOPHISTICATED EGYPTIANS ARE ASKING
WHAT SADAT HOPES TO GAIN FROM ABROGATION, SINCE SOME
UNPLEASANT SOVIET REACTION CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED AND
NO IMMEDIATE OFFSETTING GAIN SEEMS LIKELY. NEVERTHELESS,
AVERAGE EGYPTIAN SEEMS PLEASED. GOE OFFICIAL RELATED TO
EMBOFF THAT HE HAD SEEN LARGE GROUP OF RUSSIAN TOURISTS
LEAVING THEIR ALEXANDRIA HOTEL JUST AFTER SADAT FINISHED
SPEAKING. THEIR BUS DRIVER GREETED THEIR ARRIVAL WITH
"WE DON'T NEED YOU NOW," AND OTHER VARIANTS OF "IVAN GO HOME."
THIS IN NUTSHELL IS HOW MOST UNSOPHISTICATED EGYPTIANS FEEL
ABOUT ATNEISTIC COMMUNISTS.
EILTS

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